Appl'n. No. 09/545,516 Response dated May 13, 2004 Reply to Office Action of Nov. 20, 2003

RECEIVED CENTRAL FAX CENTER

MAY 1 3 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

Appl'n. No.

09/545,516

Confirmation No. 9676

Applicants Filed

Hintz et al. 04/07/2000

TC/A.U.

2857

Examiner

Mary Kate B. Baran

Docket No.

GMU-18B

Customer No.:

28598

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Madam:

This Amendment in response to the Office Action dated November 20, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response that expired on February 20, 2004 and a three-month extension of time up to and including May 20, 2004.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.